

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 FEA-01

INT-05 TAR-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /083 W

----- 099705

R 301935Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM

REF: STATE 021494

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ORANTES MORNING JANUARY 30 AND CONVEYED TO HIM FORMALLY THE FULL TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE ARGENTINE ANNOUCEMENT REGARDING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BA-MFM AND THE REMARKS MADE BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS JANUARY 28 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER READ THE STATEMENTS AND EXPRESSED HIS THANKS. HE POINTED OUT THAT GUATEMALA, ALONG WITH THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN DISPOSED TO PROCEED WITH THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING (GUATEMALA 0571). THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER  
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HAD BEEN IN CONSULTATION BY TELEPHONE WITH ALL OAS MEMBERS. HE HAD

CALLED MOLINA ORANTES ON SATURDAY JAN. 25 AND POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA, ECUADOR AND PERU WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING BECAUSE OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT. MEXICO HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NOT ATTEND UNLESS CUBA WERE PRESENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF CUBA WERE INVITED, CHILE WOULD NOT ATTEND. IT WAS CLEAR THAT IF THE MEETING WERE HELD AS SCHEDULED, AT LEAST FOUR MAJOR COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE PRESENT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, GUATEMALA, ALONG WITH THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO POST-ONE THE MEETING. MOLINA ORANTES SAID HE SUSPECTED ARGENTINA WAS PRIVATELY RELIEVED SINCE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA WERE NOT GOOD FOR HOLDING SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE NEW TRADE ACT DOES NOT HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON GUATEMALA. THIS COUNTRY IS NOT A PRODUCER OF VITAL RAW MATERIALS. NEITHER DOES IT PRODUCE MANY MANUFACTURED GOODS WHICH WOULD BRING IT BENEFITS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TRADE ACT. GUATEMALA IS A FRIEND OF BOTH SIDES IN THE MATTER. SHE VALUES HER GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME SHE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE A MODERATE POSITION IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING THE U.S. TRADE ACT. HE IS CONVINCED THAT IN A SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION AND FRIENDSHIP, THROUGH DIALOGUE AND ABOVE ALL WITH PATIENCE, SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND TO PRESENT DIFFERENCES. WE HAVE SURMOUNTED MUCH MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THAN THE FUROR OVER THE TRADE ACT AND HE IS CONFIDENT WE WILL DO SO AGAIN.

5. MOLINA ORANTES EMPHASIZED THAT HE FELT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT REGARD THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BA-MFM AS A RETALIATORY MEASURE. IT IS TRUE THAT EMOTIONAL LATIN REACTIONS BY VENEZUELA, ECUADOR AND PERU WERE A MAJOR FACTOR. HOWEVER, MEXICO HAD INTRODUCED AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROBLEM AND ARGENTINE CONCERN OVER THEIR OWN SECURITY SITUATION, WHILE NOT PUBLICLY MENTIONED, CANNOT BE EXCLUDED AS A CONSIDERATION IN THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE MEETING.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GUATEM00570  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 021494  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GT, US, XM, OAS, (MOLINA ORANTES, ADOLFO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006